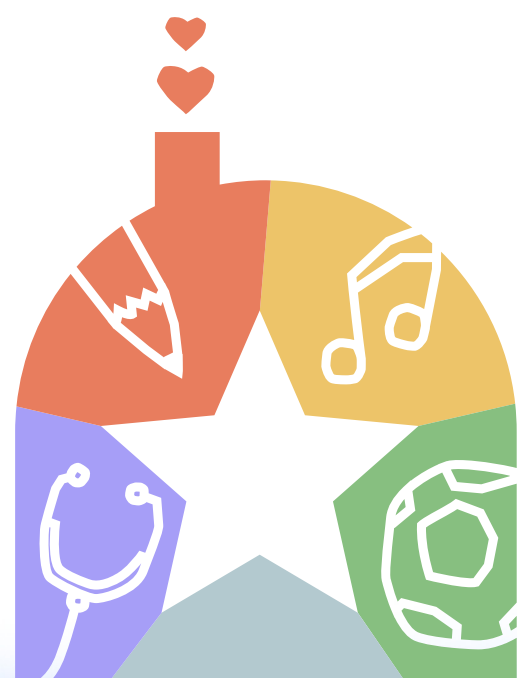




Child Houses Annual Report 2024

Every Child Safe, In a Family,
With a Circle of Care



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A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a dark shirt. He is looking slightly off-camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage.

Letter from Leadership

Dear friends, supporters, and members of our community,

“Thank you” is not enough. It’s a word far too small to carry the weight of our gratitude for each one of you who stood with us in 2024. Your belief in us—your trust, your flexible support without the heavy conditions that often paralyze local organizations—these are the reasons Child Houses is still here, still standing, and still reaching children no one else could.

2024 was a year of transformation. For the first time, we saw official recognition of alternative care frameworks in northwest Syria. This was a historic achievement—changing laws that had long been stuck in limbo. We built partnerships with nearly every major organization and government body working in the region. Despite being a relatively small organization, we were able to lead the technical cluster for child protection across most of northwest Syria. We reached more children than we ever imagined—especially those who are separated, unaccompanied, or living without family.

But we also faced enormous challenges. Funding dropped dramatically. Our team worked in high-risk zones where displacement, conflict, and regime campaigns made our work not only difficult but dangerous.

This past year marked a historic moment—not only for Child Houses, but for Syria. The fall of the Assad regime and the liberation of the country created a shockwave that touched every household, every institution, every one of us. We

responded quickly, shifting our operations and decision-making into Syria. For the first time, our executive leadership was fully rooted inside the country. That change didn't just lower our operational costs—it brought us closer, physically and emotionally, to the children we serve. It allowed us to coordinate formally with local governance structures and to begin claiming our seat at the national table for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children.

Our vision for the coming year is clear. We will continue to fight for every child to grow up in a loving and safe family. We will work across three levels: with the child, with families and communities, and with the government. We aim to end institutional care, empower families to become safe caregivers, and train national actors to respond with compassion and professionalism. We believe deeply in community-based child protection, and in the power of local solutions.

Through it all, what made this work possible—what made it human—was our team. Child Houses isn't just a name; it's made up of letters, and each team member is one of them.

To our team I say, you created the foundation that allowed us to stand during the hardest year of our existence. Some of you were on night shifts while your own children slept elsewhere. You were away from your families for five days straight just to ensure the children in our care were safe and comforted. you responded to emergencies at impossible hours. And you did it with love, with integrity, and with a sense of duty that continues to humble me. Without you, there would be no Child Houses.

To our founder and the one who carried this vision forward for years before I stepped in—Alaeddin Janid thank you. Thank you for your leadership, your persistence, and your belief that every child deserves to be safe, loved, and seen. You gave us roots. Now we grow.

To the Syrian people, I say this: separated and abandoned children may be few in number, but their impact is immense. With care, they can help rebuild this nation. Without it, the damage will touch all of us.

To our donors and partners, I say: Your support didn't just fund programs. It protected dignity. It gave children moments of joy, safety, and connection they had never felt before.

With deep respect and lasting commitment,

Faisal Al Hamoud
Executive Director

Who We Are

Child Houses is a Syrian-led, community-rooted organization working to protect and restore the lives of children separated, abandoned, or orphaned by war.

We walk alongside each child from the moment they are found alone — ensuring they are safe, supported, and never forgotten.



Our Mission

To walk the extra mile with children, families, and communities — building stable, nurturing environments where every child can thrive.

We believe **family is the foundation of a child's development** — where they learn who they are, where they belong, and how to trust the world. In a country where war has torn so many families apart, we work to rebuild those foundations, one child at a time.

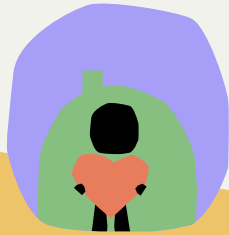
Protection, for us, means more than meeting urgent needs. It means surrounding the child with care at every level — starting with family, and extending to the caregivers, communities, and systems that shape their future.

What we build with children today will shape the Syria of tomorrow. The homes they are placed in, the adults who fight for them, and the systems that protect them — will echo for generations to come.

Our Vision

A Syria where every child grows up in a safe, loving family.

2024 At a Glance



Every Child Safe

We provided urgent protection and care for children found alone or at risk.

84 orphanage caregivers trained
28 families received parenting support
7 institutions engaged in care reform

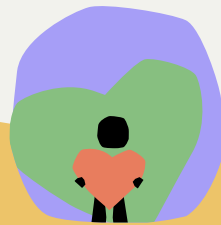
76 children sheltered in safe emergency housing

5,987 children received psychosocial support

1,368 children supported with medical devices

10 children received birth certificates or IDs

Avg. time from identification to placement: **4** months



Every Caregiver Supported

We trained and mentored the adults closest to children.



Every Child with Family

We helped children find their way home through reunification or foster care.

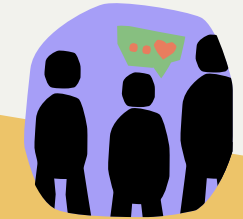
235 awareness sessions held
4,168 people reached
11 schools and centers involved
10 community campaigns led

System Reform & Emergency Aid

We strengthened the national child protection system.

28 orphanages assessed
62 medical devices (incubators, etc.) provided to hospitals

32 reunited with parents or caregivers
24 placed in loving foster families
143 families received emergency cash support
24 new foster families assessed and approved



Every Community Involved

We raised awareness across neighborhoods, schools, and institutions.



A New Chapter: The Liberation of Syria

In December 2024, Syria was liberated.

For many, it marked a political turning point. But for us, it was far more personal — the end of a 14-year era that defined an entire generation. Syria's children had lost nearly everything: their homes, families, and sense of safety.

Liberation didn't bring immediate peace, but it opened a long-closed door.

For the first time, we were allowed into orphanages hidden for over a decade. We met children who had been forgotten — some without names, some without anyone looking for them. What we found was heartbreaking: a system that treated children as problems, not people.

But we also saw hope. Staff ready to change. Records that led us back to families. Young people still longing to be held and chosen.

Now, for the first time, Child Houses has been invited by Syria's new government to lead the shift from institutional care to family-based care — nationwide.

This moment is historic.

By the end of 2025, we will serve all of Syria — helping children find their way home, supporting caregivers, and rebuilding a system rooted in love, not control.

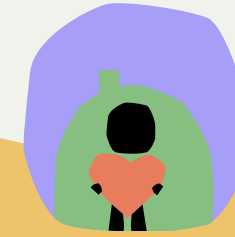
The war is over. But the real rebuilding has just begun.

Our Model

Our model is a holistic, layered approach rooted in the best interests of the child.

At the center is the child — and everything we build radiates outward from that point. We believe children thrive when they are surrounded by strong, stable relationships: grounded in family, supported by caregivers, strengthened by communities, and protected by systems that uphold their rights.

This approach is holistic, because no single intervention is enough. And it's sustainable, because it reinforces every layer of care around the child — not just in moments of crisis, but throughout their journey to safety, healing, and belonging.



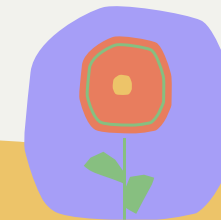
The Child at the Center

Every child deserves to feel safe, seen, and loved. When a child is found alone or in danger, we act quickly to protect them and help them feel secure again.



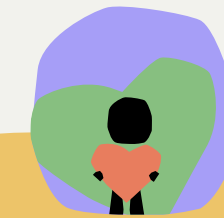
Family as the Foundation

Children belong in families. We help them go back to their parents or relatives — and when no one is there, we find a loving foster family to care for them like their own.



Communities Who Care

Children thrive in kind, informed communities. We work with schools, neighbors, and local leaders to build a culture that welcomes and protects every child.

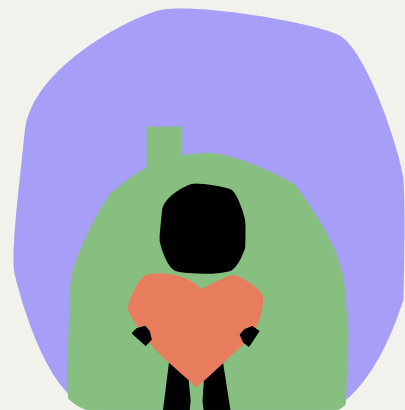


Systems That Protect

Children need strong laws and services behind them. We help governments and institutions create national systems that keep children safe and end the use of long-term institutions.

Programs

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Every Child Safe

We protect children from the moment they are found — and walk with them until they feel safe, loved, and home again.

What We Did in 2024

In northwest Syria, our emergency shelter served as a vital lifeline for children left without care. Each child was welcomed not only with safety, but with warmth and a personalized plan. Whether tracing family, arranging medical care, or preparing for foster placement — every path was unique. Because safety isn't just about protection. It's about being seen, supported, and guided toward a future where belonging is possible.

Key Impact in 2024

76 children hosted in emergency shelter
5,987 children received psychosocial support
1,476 PSS kits distributed
1,368 children supported with medical devices
52 children referred to specialized services
222 children received case management
214 new child protection cases opened
10 children received legal documentation

Average time from identification to placement: **4** months

What's Next

In 2025, we will expand our reach by transitioning our shelter operations to Damascus — the center of Syria's new recovery. There, we will repurpose one of the country's largest state-run orphanages into a national Family Emergency Shelter, allowing us to serve more children, influence national standards of care, and position Child Houses to lead in shaping Syria's protection system.



Every Child in a Family

We reunite children with the families they've lost — or help them find one for the first time.

What We Did in 2024

In 2024, we worked to reconnect children with the people who know them best — or help them find a family when no one could be found. Through careful family tracing, case management, and social work, we supported reunifications with parents, returns to extended relatives, and new beginnings in foster care.

Every decision started with one question: What is in the best interest of this child?

We assessed families, prepared children emotionally, and offered parenting support and emergency aid to help families stay stable — because we believe family is not just where a child comes from, it's where they grow.

Key Impact in 2024

23 children reunified with their parents

9 children reunified with extended family

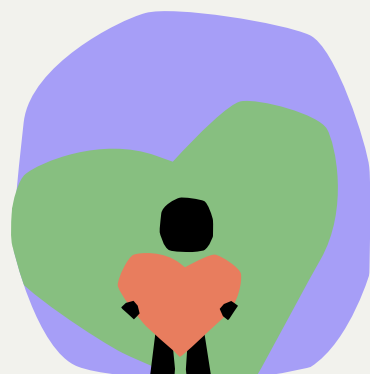
24 children placed in foster families

24 families assessed and approved as foster families

143 families supported with emergency cash assistance

What's Next

In 2025 and beyond, we aim to ensure every unaccompanied child is quickly connected to family — through tracing or foster care. Our goal is to scale this approach nationwide, so that over time, it becomes the official pathway for care, used by shelters and orphanages across Syria.



Every Caregiver Supported

We equip caregivers with the tools to offer safety, empathy, and healing to every child in their care.

What We Did in 2024

In 2024, we focused on those standing closest to children — the caregivers who shape a child’s daily world. Whether in orphanages, foster homes, reunified families, or schools, we equipped them with the tools to respond with empathy, structure, and care.

Most of the children we serve have lived through war, loss, and deep instability. We trained caregivers to understand trauma, create safe environments, and respond to emotional and behavioral needs — not as problems to fix, but as pain to be held and understood.

In orphanages, we supported staff in family tracing, child protection, and case management. For foster and reunified families, we provided parenting support and referrals to help build stable, loving homes. Because every child deserves to feel safe — and every caregiver deserves to know how to offer that safety.

Key Impact in 2024

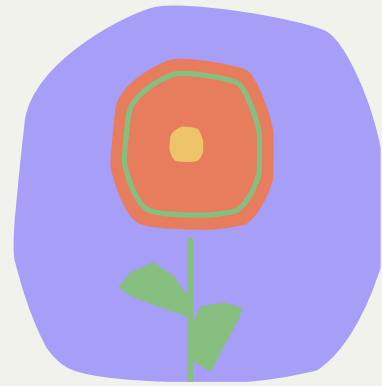
84 orphanage caregivers trained

28 families supported with parenting sessions

7 institutions engaged in reform or training

What’s Next

In 2025 and beyond, we will document and strengthen our care model — making it easy to scale, train, and share. Our goal is to equip caregivers, orphanages, schools, and families across Syria with the tools they need to support children with safety, empathy, and trauma-informed care.



Every Community Involved

We strengthen the circle around the child — so care doesn't end at home, but is carried by the whole community.

2024 Impact Snapshot

235 awareness sessions held in schools, religious spaces, and community centers

4,168 people reached through community engagement

11 schools or centers actively involved

10 public outreach campaigns launched

28 orphanages and institutions assessed for reform

What We Did in 2024

Over the past several years, Child Houses has become a trusted voice for Syria's most vulnerable children — those who are unaccompanied, separated, or abandoned. In 2024, we continued to advocate for family-based care at both community and policy levels, shaping key legislation under the former de facto government that prioritized reunification over institutionalization.

As a result, Child Houses became the primary referral organization for unaccompanied children in northwest Syria. With that trust, we expanded awareness efforts across schools, religious institutions, and public spaces — encouraging communities to respond with empathy and urgency. Our work centered not just on protection, but on shifting perceptions: helping people see that children don't just need shelter — they need family.

What's Next

In 2025, we will relocate our base to Damascus and work alongside national actors to help shape Syria's new child protection system. With an official invitation from the government, Child Houses will lead the shift from orphanage care to family-based care — offering tools, training, and advocacy to ensure every child is seen, supported, and placed where they belong.

Stories of Impact

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“Naji, the Survivor”

Naji was found at the doorstep of a home in northwest Syria—malnourished, wrapped in a blanket, and left alone. At just one year old, he had already survived poverty, abandonment, and hunger. Child Houses stepped in immediately, bringing him to the hospital, then to our short-term shelter where he received nutrition, medical care, and the love of dedicated caregivers.

As Naji healed, a couple registered through our alternative care program—hopeful, after eight years of infertility. On April 27, 2024, Naji joined their family.

Naji’s care reflects our child-centered approach in emergencies: protection first, and always with a plan for long-term belonging.

“From Prison to Home: Baby L’s Reunion”

At just four months old, Baby L was living in a prison with her mother, deprived of care, hygiene, and safety. When Child Houses learned of her situation, we coordinated with local authorities to bring her to safety. She arrived wearing tattered clothes and bearing signs of neglect—but with the right care, she began to thrive.

Our caseworkers searched tirelessly until they located her maternal aunt. With tears of joy, the aunt welcomed her niece home. With continued support—diapers, food, and guidance—Baby L now grows up in family, not a facility.

Every placement like this proves that family-based care is not only possible in Syria—it’s essential.





“A Family of Families”

Over 120 foster families across Syria are now raising children once abandoned at birth. Many of these parents came forward after facing loss, infertility, or simply having love to give. Today, they support one another through a shared WhatsApp group—celebrating milestones, asking questions, and reminding each other they’re not alone.

This community has become a living model of peer support—shifting norms and strengthening care from the inside out.

“A Future After the Earthquake”

When a massive earthquake struck northwest Syria, six-year-old F lost both parents and was buried in rubble for hours. Rescued but traumatized, she clung to a hat to hide the shame and shock of survival. Her grandmother tried to care for the children but struggled in a fragile tent.

Child Houses intervened with shelter, clothes, trauma-informed support, and school enrollment. When F began brushing her hair again, her caregivers knew she was healing.

Stories like F’s guide our advocacy — showing why child protection systems must include mental health and family-based support at every level.



Financial Summary

Compliance Note

Child Houses is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity in the United States and an ANBI-recognized non-profit foundation in the Netherlands. We are committed to full transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the ethical use of funds in all contexts.

- All donations are tax-deductible in the U.S. as allowed by law.
- In accordance with ANBI regulations, we ensure that all income is used for the public benefit and that no profits are distributed.
- No board member or staff member receives compensation beyond modest, fair salaries required to carry out our mission.
- Our administrative and coordination costs are intentionally lean and strategic, enabling a national-scale impact with high accountability and low overhead.

We thank you for trusting us to walk alongside Syria's children with care, integrity, and purpose.

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Income Summary 2024

Source	Description	Amount (USD)
Private Fund Contributions	Donations from individuals and families (crowdfunding, events, direct gifts)	\$155,286.20
Donor Contributions (Institutional)	Institutional and foundation grants (project-based or unrestricted)	\$399,798.06
In-Kind Donations	Estimated value of donated goods and services (e.g. incubators, supplies)	\$80,000.00
Total 2024 Income		\$635,084.26
Starting Balance (Jan 1, 2024)	Carry-over from 2023	\$274,536.00
Total Funds Available	Income + Starting Balance	\$909,620.26
Total Expenses (2024)		\$1,009,569.00
Year-End Deficit	Covered by anticipated incoming grants	(\$99,948.74)

Expense Summary 2024

Category	Description	Amount (USD)	% of Budget
Program Services	Shelter care, foster family support, reunification, child protection, IPA, direct child support	\$543,500.44	53.8%
Program Support & Coordination	Syria-based leadership, field team salaries, reporting, capacity building	\$303,222.78	30.0%
Management & Administration	HQ salaries, compliance, audit, office & operations (admin expenses)	\$162,845.78	16.1%
Total Expenses		\$1,009,569.00	100%

Result	Amount (USD)
Year-End Deficit	-\$99,948.74
Explanation	Covered by anticipated incoming grants in early 2025

Partners and Supporters

We are deeply grateful to the partners and supporters who stood with us in 2024 — from local communities to global allies. Together, we’ve touched the lives of hundreds of children, offering safety, connection, and the chance to grow up in families. As we step into 2025, we look forward to expanding this circle of care — reaching more children, and strengthening the network of hearts and hands holding them.



“Child Houses is amazing. I genuinely enjoyed knowing the team and working together . They raised the bar so high for other partners!”

Fatima Morales, IMDO

**Fondacion de France
Stichting Retourschip
Stichting Vluchteling
War Child Holland
International Rescue Committee (IRC)**

Harbourton Foundation

Choose Love

International Media Development Organization (IMDO)

Happy Caravan

Stichting Jacoba Van Wassenaer

Stichting Van Well der Snoek

Timeless Foundation

The Syria Campaign

UNIFOR

What's Next: Vision for 2025 and Beyond

Syria's transition has created a historic opportunity to reform the national child protection system.

As a trusted actor in this space, Child Houses is uniquely positioned to scale family-based care — combining direct service, national coordination, and policy-level influence.

We are building not only programs, but blueprints — shaping what child protection can look like in a country emerging from war.

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In 2025, We Will...

Five Commitments to Help Rewrite the Future for Syria’s Children

1. Root Ourselves in Syria

We will fully establish our base inside Syria — shifting leadership, registration, and daily operations to Damascus. By staying close to the children, families, and systems we serve, we’ll build deeper trust and greater impact where it matters most.

2. Reach More Children, in More Places

We’ll expand from two regions to six — including Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, and Rural Damascus — offering individualized care for children who’ve been separated from their families. This includes transforming Syria’s largest orphanage into a national Family Emergency Shelter and model for reform.

3. Build the Path Back to Family

We’ll help 300 children begin their journey home — through family tracing, foster care, and case management. And we’ll train 500 caregivers, from foster parents to orphanage staff, to create safe, stable homes where children can heal and grow.

4. Shift the National Conversation

We’ll launch a campaign to reach 10,000+ people — engaging schools, mosques, and neighborhoods with a simple message: every child deserves a family. We’ll also work with Syrian decision-makers to embed family-based care into national policy.

5. Grow with Purpose and Accountability

We’ll scale in phases, balancing ambition with local realities. Through field research and real-time data, we’ll ground our work in evidence — offering practical tools and policy insights that strengthen Syria’s new child protection system for the long haul.

2026–2030: Where We're Headed

**By
2026**

- Damascus Family Emergency Shelter is fully operational and serving children nationwide.
- 80% of Syria's orphanages assessed, with priority map for phased reunification.
- Child Houses model documented and ready to scale: tracing, case management, foster care.
- National partners engaged to begin system-wide reform.

**By
2028**

- Introduce national guidelines for family reunification and foster care.
- Help phase out long-term institutional care in key regions.
- Launch Child Houses' training institute for social workers and caregivers.
- Reach 25,000+ people with national advocacy for family-based care.

**By
2030**

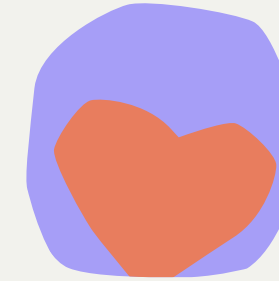
- Syria's child protection system prioritizes family-based care at every level.
- Orphanages used only as short-term, last-resort care.
- The majority of children without parental care are placed in safe families.
- Communities across Syria are equipped to care, report, and protect.

Get Involved

This work is only possible together.

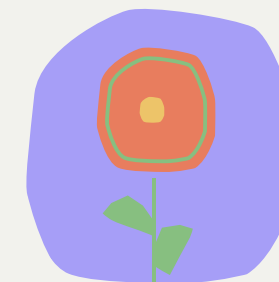
If you believe that every child deserves to feel safe, loved, and at home in a family — you're already part of this movement. There's a role for you here, and we'd love to have you on this journey with us.

Here are three meaningful ways you can support:



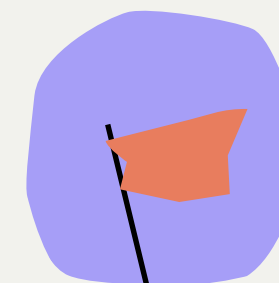
1. Fund the Future

Partner with us to build a sustainable, scalable model of family-based care. We're especially seeking aligned family foundations and private donors who want to support long-term systems change and help grow our in-country capacity.



2. Grow the Mission

Are you part of an organization, university, or platform? Collaborate with us to strengthen our model, share knowledge, or expand our reach across Syria and beyond.



3. Join the Movement

We're always looking for volunteers and interns to help carry this mission forward. Whether you're a communicator, researcher, translator, or just passionate about this work — if you have time and heart to give, we'd love to hear from you.



Child Houses

Our Locations:

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Registered 501(c)(3) Public Charity
EIN: 33-3902999
All donations are tax-deductible as permitted by U.S. law.
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Netherlands

Founding Office (ANBI Status)
Recognized Stichting with ANBI status
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KvK (Chamber of Commerce): 76381048
Donations qualify for Dutch tax benefits.

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